

What Is The World Coming To?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, Prophecy Survey
"Strength For Stressful Times", Part 3
Pastor Vince DiPaola

I) THE NEXT BIG FUTURE EVENT: "THE RAPTURE" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

1) An important question: What happens to ____CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE DIED____? (4:13)

2) An interesting answer: All New Testament Christians ____WILL BE RAPTURED____! (4:14-17a)

a) The Promise: The Lord will ____RESURRECT____ both dead and living Christians. (4:14-15)

b) The Procedure: 1st) The Lord will ____RETURN TO THE CLOUDS____. (4:16a)

2nd) The Lord will ____CALL FORTH EVERY CHRISTIAN____. (4:16b)

3rd) All deceased Christians will be ____RESURRECTED TO HEAVEN____. (4:16c)

4th) All alive Christians will be ____TRANSLATED TO HEAVEN____. (4:17a)

3) An insightful meaning: What the Rapture should do for every Christian. (4:17b-18)

a) The rapture should ____COMFORT US____ in the Lord forever. (4:17b)

b) The rapture should ____ENCOURAGE US____ in the daily grind today. (4:18)

c) The rapture should ____ENGAGE US____ in the Lord's work continually. (see 5:1-11)

II) THE NEXT BIG FUTURE TIME-FRAME: "THE DAY OF THE LORD"

(1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

1) The Day Of The Lord and it's arrival (5:1-2)

* "The Day" will arrive as a predictive ____SURPRISE____... so be ____ALERT____!

2) The Day Of The Lord and unbelievers (5:3)

* "The Day" will produce destructive ____JUDGMENT____... so be ____EVANGELISTIC____!

3) The Day Of The Lord and believers (5:4-10)

* "The Day" will provide dramatic ____SALVATION____... so be ____SELF-CONTROLLED____!

4) The Day Of The Lord and our response (5:11)

* "The Day" should prompt us to ____ENCOURAGE OTHERS____... so be ____EDIFYING____!

THE MAJOR EVENTS OF GOD'S PROPHETIC FUTURE

Selected Scripture

A BASIC CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- 1) **The Rapture of the Church** (1Thes. 4:16-17, 1Cor. 15:51-52, John 14:1-3, Rev. 3:10)
(1st Resurrection: All Christians from New Testament era)
- 2) **The Seven Year Tribulation** (Dan. 9:24-27, Matt. 24:3-28, Rev. 4-19)
- 3) **The Second Coming of Christ** (Zech. 14:1-21, Matt. 24:29-31, Rev. 19)
(2nd Resurrection: All Old Testament Saints and Christians from the tribulation period)
- 4) **The 1000 Year Millennial Kingdom** (Rev. 20:1-6)
- 5) **The Final Loosing of Satan and Final Judgment** (Rev. 20:7-15)
(3rd Resurrection: All non-Christians from every era of human history)
- 6) **The New Heavens and the New Earth (Eternal State)** (Rev. 21:1-22:5)

A SPECIFIC CONTRAST OF EVENTS (The Rapture and the Second Coming)

1) The Rapture of the Church

(John 14:1-14, 1Cor. 15:51-58, 1Thes. 4:13-18)

Christ comes to the clouds

Christ returns for the church

Christians are then headed for heaven

No signs precede the Rapture

No mention of tribulation

The Rapture delivers from wrath

The Resurrection is part of event
(1st Resurrection : Church)

2) The Second Coming of Christ

(Zech. 14:1-21, Matt. 24:29-31,
Mark 13:24-27, Luke 21:25-27, Rev. 19)

Christ comes to the Mt. of Olives

Christ returns with the church

Christians are then headed for earth

Many signs signal the Second Coming

A time of tribulation and judgement
proceeds it

The Second Coming delivers after wrath

The Resurrection is after the event
(2nd Resurrection: OT/Trib. of saints)
(3rd Resurrection: Wicked unbelievers)

A DEFINITE CONSOLATION OF EVENTS

- 1) Proper knowledge of prophecy gives us comfort in suffering. Rejoice!
- 2) Proper knowledge of prophecy gives us courage in adversity. Be bold!
- 3) Proper knowledge of prophecy gives us confidence in Christ. Trust!